

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 101

By McNally

A RESOLUTION supporting the preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge over the Fort Loudoun Dam.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this body lend our support to certain causes and endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such cause is the preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge over the Fort Loudoun Dam near Lenoir City; and

WHEREAS, the fifty-two-year-old bridge, which is owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), spans the Tennessee River over the Fort Loudoun Dam, and is scheduled for demolition next year as part of a Department of Transportation project to widen U.S. 231 and build three new bridges in the area; and

WHEREAS, there has arisen a groundswell of support for the preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge as a bicycle and pedestrian causeway, which will unite a number of local trail systems and greenways, including the thirty-mile-long East Lakeshore Trail along Tellico Lake; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge can be accomplished by using funds earmarked for the demolition of the bridge, and those funds can be used to maintain the bridge for the next twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, the bridge has long been a popular tourist destination due to the views it offers. The “million-dollar views” take in the beauty of Fort Loudoun Lake set against the backdrop of the Smoky Mountains, and are spectacular enough to draw in numerous visitors to the area each year; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of this body that the preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge would be in the best interests of the good people of Loudon County and of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby support the preservation of the J. Carmichael Greer Bridge as a causeway open to pedestrians and cyclists and encourage the Tennessee Valley Authority to reconsider its plan to demolish the span.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we applaud the tireless efforts of those who seek to save the bridge from demolition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.